

Quick Response

Fire Department Averts Possible Disaster

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HEBER CITY (Dec. 3) - A fire at the old Hicken feed mill this evening could have been much more serious than it actually was according to Heber Valley Fire Dept. Chief Steve Ivie.

The blaze had a serious potential because it was located within five feet of a bulk fuel tank that could have exploded. "We had about one minute to decide whether to fight the fire or start evacuating people," Ivie said.

They chose to fight, and, to a man, twenty two members of the Heber Valley Volunteer Fire Department stayed and fought.

Quick reporting of the fire and the department's response were also credited as being two reasons the fire was quickly controlled. Chief Ivie singled out Paul Probst - who is accused by other members of the department of sleeping with his clothes on - for special praise. "When I arrived, Paul was already there and had water on the fire. It was partly due to his quick work that we decided to stay and fight the fire. A delay of five minutes in reporting the fire or our response could have made all the difference in the world."

The fire also came up for discussion during the Heber City Council meeting last Thursday.

In response to Councilman Wayne Clegg's inquiry as to what could be done to prevent

another fire at that location, it was brought out that the owner of the property had agreed to demolish the partially burned building.

Councilman-elect Bob Morris, a member and past Chief of the Fire Dept., told the council that a dangerous situation would still exist. He pointed out that grain dust was a problem in both buildings, especially in the summer when it becomes extremely flammable.

In an effort to reduce the fire

hazard in the area, owners of the bulk tanks located next to the mill revealed plans to remove the tanks as soon as they could be sold or another site prepared for them.

Investigating officials have revealed that arson was the cause of the blaze. While there are some suspects, no arrests have been made. Since there have been several arson caused fires recently, officials ask that citizens be alert for suspicious persons.

Heber Couple Given Prison Sentences

On Tuesday a federal judge sentenced Gayle Taylor Hurren, of Heber City to seven years in prison for her role in what prosecutors claimed in court was a \$15 million cocaine distribution ring.

Sentenced in the Tuesday action by U.S. District Judge Aldon J. Anderson was Gayle Taylor Hurren, age 29, on her plea of guilty to the cocaine distribution charges.

Also sentenced by Judge Anderson was Michael C. Hur-

ren, Mrs. Hurren's husband, who was given 15 years in prison. Hurren was charged by prosecutors as the distribution ring-leader of a cocaine smuggling ring, he was the first of 21 people charged in the case to be sentenced.

In other action, a federal grand jury earlier this year charged the 21 people in a 170-count indictment, alleging that they had distributed 100 pounds of cocaine over a three year period in three states.

The picture of a scorched structure next to a bulk tank gives little indication of the potential disaster that faced Heber firemen. Firemen had to make a quick decision whether to fight the fire or evacuate residents.

